

REMARKS

Claims 22-40 were presented and examined. In response to the Office Action, Claims 22, 27, 31 and 37 are amended, and no claims are cancelled or added. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 22-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,574,423 to Oshima et al. (“Oshima,” previously cited) in view of U.S. Patent 6,553,147 to Chai et al. (“Chai,” previously cited) and U.S. Patent 6,052,343 to Yamanaka (“Yamanaka”).

Applicants amend independent Claims 22, 27, 31 and 37 to recite that “viewpoint information includes a viewpoint information flag representing a value corresponding to the number of view points that the packetized elementary stream provides.” Oshima does not disclose the recited viewpoint information flag, which represents a value corresponding to the number of view points. The Examiner relies on Oshima for disclosing the recited viewpoint information. Specifically, The Examiner asserts that Oshima discloses the use of up to two view points. The Examiner asserts that FIG. 49 of Oshima shows two sub-stream numbers, which indicate the use of two view points. However, the two sub-stream numbers (a first sub-stream number and a second sub-stream number) does not indicate the number of view points, but instead indicates the number of sub-streams which form the corresponding steam. Therefore, the sub-stream numbers are totally unrelated to the number of view points.

The other references, Chai and Yamanaka, do not supply these missing elements in Oshima. Thus, for at least the foregoing reasons, Claims 22, 27, 31 and 37 and their respective dependent claims are non-obvious over the cited references. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103 rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

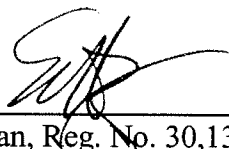
In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any fees due in connection with the filing of this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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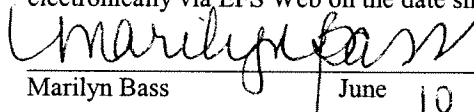
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted electronically via EFS Web on the date shown below.



Marilyn Bass June 10, 2009